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**NLSY97 Appendix 11:**  
**Collection of the Transcript Data, Wave 1**

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To complement data on respondents' educational experiences collected during the yearly interviews, NLSY97 staff collect transcripts directly from respondents' high schools as the youths graduate or leave school. When the transcripts are received from the schools, survey staff code the information they contain into a standard format. The resulting created variables comprise a history of the respondent's terms in school, courses taken, and other academic indicators. This appendix describes the survey materials used during data collection and explains the procedures and criteria for data entry and coding. It also lists specific details about individual Transcript Survey variables and provides coding information for the course code variables.

### **TRANSCRIPT SURVEY DATA COLLECTION**

Conducted in 1999–2000, wave I of the NLSY97 Transcript Survey sought hard copy transcripts from 1,622 NLSY97 respondents who had provided signed authorization for transcript collection, and who were no longer enrolled in high school in spring 2000. Non-enrollment occurred when the youth either graduated from high school or dropped out of school and was at least 18 years old. In wave I, coded transcript data are available for 1,417 respondents. Wave II will collect additional transcripts in winter 2003–04.

NORC mailed a transcript request packet to each school from which an NLSY97 youth received his or her high school diploma, or to the last school the youth attended. The packet contained informational materials about the NLSY97, a description of the NLSY97 Transcript Survey, and documentation of administrative permission from districts to contact schools. In addition, packets included the following items, reproduced on the following pages:

1. a cover letter addressed to the school principal
2. a one-page cover sheet questionnaire collecting school-specific grading and transcript policies
3. a Student Request list identifying the sampled students in the school
4. the signed permission forms for these students

Figure 1. Cover letter for Transcript Survey materials

February 3, 2000

Dear Principal:

The National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago is conducting a survey called the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 (NLSY97). The survey is intended to collect, on a nationwide basis, information pertaining to the employment, job training, education, and family experiences of young adults born from 1980 to 1984. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and supervised by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the survey provides researchers with data relevant for examining linkages between family, education, and employment outcomes.

While we collect a great amount of information about the home environment for these youth, it also is vital that we learn about their school environment and academic success. For this reason, the U.S. Department of Labor is asking for your voluntary cooperation in providing information about the school experiences of these youth.

Specifically, we would appreciate your help in providing the following:

- School transcripts for the student(s) listed on the enclosed permission forms
- Answers to the enclosed one-page questionnaire that will provide additional information to help us interpret the transcript information we collect from schools across the nation
- A copy of your course catalog or a listing of your course offerings

Enclosed is a copy of the signed permission form for each student for whom we are requesting information. NORC obtained signatures from the student and from the parents of all students under the age of 18 years. For students 18 years of age and older, we accepted the youth's signature as adequate consent. NORC is sensitive to the need to maintain the confidentiality of all respondents in this survey. Identifying information is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act statement provided on the back of this form. In addition, we have enclosed a brochure to provide additional information about this important longitudinal research effort.

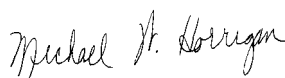
NORC estimates that it will take an average of 30 minutes per student to complete the enclosed questionnaire and prepare a copy of the transcript information.

Please fill out the enclosed reimbursement form, which allows you to be reimbursed in the amount of \$10.00 per student for any costs associated with reproducing transcripts. Also enclosed is a postage-paid business reply envelope for returning the student list, transcript(s), completed questionnaire, and course listings to NORC.

We look forward to receiving your completed documents within the next two weeks. Should you have any questions or comments, please call our project information line at 1-877-400-0449. You may call at any time; if we are not able to assist you at the time of your call, we will return your call within one business day. You may also write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Longitudinal Survey, 2 Massachusetts Avenue N.E., Washington, DC 20212. The OMB clearance number for this survey is 1220-0157. Without this current OMB number, BLS could not conduct this survey.

We appreciate your support and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Michael Horrigan  
Program Director, BLS



A. Rupa Datta  
Project Director, NORC

Figure 2. Cover sheet for school-specific information

<b>TRANSCRIPTS COVER SHEET</b>				NORC/4896 1/00
<b>National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 - Transcript Survey Supplement</b>				
SCHOOL NAME: EXAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL ID: _____				
PREPARER'S NAME: _____ DATE PREPARED: _____				
PREPARER'S TELEPHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____				
Please answer the following questions about the transcripts being provided. Your answers will help us analyze the transcripts.				
1. <b>Please specify below your school's grade scale (the percentage equivalent of each letter grade).</b> (If your school uses different grade scales for different difficulty levels of courses or tracks (honors, general, special education, etc.), please specify the scale associated with each. If your school has only one scale, record the information in the first column.)				
LEVEL _____	LEVEL _____	LEVEL _____	LEVEL _____	
A = _____ % to _____ %	A = _____ % to _____ %	A = _____ % to _____ %	A = _____ % to _____ %	
B = _____ % to _____ %	B = _____ % to _____ %	B = _____ % to _____ %	B = _____ % to _____ %	
C = _____ % to _____ %	C = _____ % to _____ %	C = _____ % to _____ %	C = _____ % to _____ %	
D = _____ % to _____ %	D = _____ % to _____ %	D = _____ % to _____ %	D = _____ % to _____ %	
F = _____ % to _____ %	F = _____ % to _____ %	F = _____ % to _____ %	F = _____ % to _____ %	
2. <b>Is any of the information below unavailable at your school, and consequently not included on the transcripts enclosed? Check off each variable that is <u>unavailable</u>.</b> (Please retrieve any information that is available at your school from other sources, such as guidance records, and write the information on each student's transcript.)				
3. <b><u>Student-level information</u></b>				
_____	number of absences per year or term			
_____	rank in class and class size			
_____	date student left school			
_____	reason student left school (graduated, transferred, etc.)			
_____	GPA			
_____	standardized test scores for the:			
_____	PSAT	_____	ACT	_____ SAT _____ AP
<b><u>Course-taking histories for grades 9 (or 10) through 12, including:</u></b>				
_____	course title			
_____	grade level, year, and term course taken			
_____	number of credits earned			
_____	grade assigned			
4. <b>Please feel free to record below any information about the transcripts enclosed that you believe would be helpful in processing them.</b>				
_____				
_____				
_____				
Thank you for your help. We appreciate your cooperation.				

Figure 3. Student Request list identifying sample students

2/03/00

STUDENT TRANSCRIPT REQUEST LIST

National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 - Transcript Survey Supplement

School Name: EXAMPLE HIGH SCHOOL  
 School ID#: XXXXXXXX  
 State: ST

INSTRUCTIONS: Please return transcripts for each student listed below. Please indicate whether he/she has participated in a special education, bilingual education, or gifted course or program by circling yes or no. If you are unable to provide a transcript for a student, please indicate the reason (such as "never attended", "transferred") in the "COMMENTS" column to the right of the student's name. If a student transferred to or from another school, please return any transcripts that you have, and write in the name, city and state of the transfer school in the "COMMENTS" column.

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS DOCUMENT WHEN RETURNING TRANSCRIPTS.

STUDENT INFORMATION	Has the student participated in any courses or programs in the following areas? (PLEASE CIRCLE ANSWER.)			TRANSCRIPT INFORMATION	
	Special Education?	Bilingual Education?	Gifted Courses or Program?	Transcript Returned?	COMMENTS: (Additional information? Reason transcript not returned? If applicable, transfer school name, city, state.)
Please supply transcripts and answer questions for each student listed below:  ID#: XXXXXXX1 Student Name: LAST NAME III, FIRST NAME Birth Date: XX/XX/19XX Attendance Last Verified: XX/19XX	Yes	No	Yes	No	
ID#: XXXXXXX2 Student Name: LAST NAME III, FIRST NAME Birth Date: XX/XX/19XX Attendance Last Verified: XX/19XX	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Figure 4. Student permission form

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<table style="margin: 0 auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> <td style="border: 1px solid black; width: 20px; height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-top: 5px;">Youth ID</p>									<p>NORC 4893</p> <p>OMB No: 1220-0157</p> <p>Expiration Date: 8/31/2001</p>

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print)

**NLSY97 ROUND 4**

**PERMISSION TO CONTACT SCHOOL**

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Labor, the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) requests permission to obtain information from school transcripts and related school records for the student named above. NORC also requests permission to contact the school regarding the general characteristics of the school as well as some specific characteristics of some classes that the student attends/attended.

***Parent***

NORC has permission to obtain school transcript, related school records, and school/class characteristic information pertaining to my child from my child's school. Identifying information is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act statement provided on the back of this form.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Student***

NORC has permission to obtain school transcript, related school records, and school/class characteristic information pertaining to me from my school. Identifying information is protected in accordance with the Privacy Act statement provided on the back of this form.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

WHITE COPY - MAIL TO CO WITH CASE MATERIALS / YELLOW COPY - MAIL TO FM / PINK COPY - KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

**Figure 4 continued. Student permission form (reverse side)**

**PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT**

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C.552a), you are hereby notified that this survey is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, under authority of 29 U.S.C.2. Your participation is vital to the success of the survey and is voluntary. The information collected in this survey will be used by BLS and other researchers to understand the labor market experience of individuals over time. BLS makes available to the general public and other federal agencies conducting labor force research information that are not individually identifiable. Under written agreements to protect the confidentiality and security of identifying information, BLS provides potentially-identifying geographic information to researchers to conduct specific research projects that further the mission and function of BLS. Unless required by law, or necessary for litigation or legal proceedings, and except as provided in the Privacy Act or as indicated in this statement, we will hold personal identifiers (e.g., name, address, or social security number) in confidence and will not release them to the public. BLS may release identifying data to the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) and the Ohio State University, and contractors, grantees, and their employees or volunteers who are working on this project for BLS and who need access to the material, or to the National Archives and Records Administration or the General Services Administration for records management purposes.



## CREATION OF THE TRANSCRIPT DATA FILE

**Organization of the data.** There are several different types of variables in the transcript data file. First, at the school level the variable TRANS\_SCH\_CAT reports whether a course catalog was received from the school to aid in coding. The highest number of schools reported for any respondent is 12, so this variable is repeated 12 times. This course catalog variable also functions as the identification number of the school. During the coding process described below, each school attended by a respondent was assigned an ID number between 1 and 12, with the school that provided the transcript always listed as school #01. These numbers were used in variables that report which school the respondent attended in each term—for example, if a respondent has a value of 4 for term 1, then he or she attended school #04 in the course catalog variables. This ID number does not link to any variables in the main data file.

Second, the transcript file includes information about the respondents that is not associated with a specific term or course. For example, these variables present test scores on a variety of achievement tests (ACT, PSAT, SAT, SAT II, AP), information on absences and tardies, the student's school completion status, and dates of enrollment. Variables also indicate whether the respondent participated in programs such as gifted, bilingual, or special education.

A number of variables refer to the respondent's terms of enrollment. For up to 18 terms, these items report the beginning and ending dates of the term, the way in which the school year is divided (such as a season, semester, entire year, or another system), the academic year of the term, the respondent's grade level that term, and the number of credits earned. A variable listing the school the respondent attended during that term can be linked to the course catalog variable as described above.

Finally, the transcript file provides details about each course appearing on a student's high school transcript. Course-specific variables include the course code from the Revised Secondary School Taxonomy (SST-R), the grade earned in the course, and the credit value of the course. Because schools use many different grading systems, the course grades were converted into a standard scale that can be compared across respondents. A series of variables called "Recoding Status of Grade" indicates how the grade earned variable for each course was created. This process is described in more detail below.

**Data entry and processing procedures.** The transcript data capture process involved several distinct data entry steps, tailored to the structure of the data, the cleaning and reconciliation needs for the relevant variables, and scheduling requirements of the data collection process. The basic data entry and processing steps were:

- 1) Entry of course-level data into an Access data capture system from high school transcripts
- 2) Coding of entered course-level data using Access coding system
- 3) Entry of student-level data from Student Request List and high school transcripts into NORC's SurveyCraft Computer-Assisted Data Entry (CADE) system
- 4) Entry and coding of transfer school information from Student Request List, high school transcripts, and NLSY97 youth interview data using Access and SAS programs
- 5) Entry of school-level data from one-page Transcript Cover Sheet into SurveyCraft CADE system
- 6) Assigning course grades to a uniform grade scale using SAS transformations

**Course-level data entry.** Course-level data include the course title, course number (assigned by school), grade earned, credits earned, and honors designation. For matching purposes, the school ID was assigned and term dates were captured during this phase of data entry. Entry was done into an Access data-capture system. All courses were independently entered twice. Where entry and re-entry matched perfectly, no further quality control was performed. If one or more discrepancies were found electronically between the entry and re-entry, a supervisor adjudicated the two data-entered versions with the original hard copy transcript to determine the accurate values. Courses were entered in the order that they appeared on the transcript. This order varied

from school to school, with systems including chronologically, alphabetically by course title, numerically by course number, etc.

**Course coding.** Course-level data were used for coding courses into the Revised Secondary School Taxonomy (SST-R), a hierarchical framework for high school course offerings. After all course-level data from a transcript had been entered, re-entered, and adjudicated, the transcript was available for course coding. To maximize coder familiarity with school naming and catalog conventions, all transcripts from a school were usually coded together. Coding of all courses was done independently by two coders. If the two codes were not equal, a supervisor adjudicated the discrepancy and assigned a final code. Because many schools did not submit course catalogs or had indecipherable course titles (e.g., Course 1), coders called some schools directly for assistance in coding, speaking to administrative or instructional staff who were able to clarify course content. The coding process used a menu-driven Access system, which exploited the hierarchical structure of the code frame and prevented coders from inadvertently entering invalid codes. All ‘uncodable’ courses were reviewed by the coding supervisor and project director where necessary.

**Student-specific data down to the term level.** All other student-specific data were captured in a SurveyCraft instrument for computer-assisted data entry. These variables include the student’s enrollment in gifted, special education, or bilingual programs, standardized test scores, dates of enrollment at the school, class rank and cumulative grade-point average, term-level information on beginning and ending dates of terms, absences and tardies, and credits earned by term. The SurveyCraft program generated a single record for each youth, containing up to 18 terms of study. Term date information was used to match term-level data with the school attended during that term. All transcripts from a school were CADEd at the same time to exploit coder familiarity with transcript formats and school-specific abbreviations. All transcripts were independently entered twice. Where entry and re-entry matched perfectly, no further quality control was performed. If one or more discrepancies were found electronically between the entry and re-entry, a supervisor adjudicated the two data-entered versions with the original hard copy transcript to determine the accurate values. Terms were entered in chronological order when such sequence could be determined.

**Transfer data.** Transcripts often included information about courses attended at other institutions. These data could appear either as an original hard copy attachment to the sampled school’s transcript or as additional lines on the sampled school’s transcript. These terms and courses were CADEd during the appropriate stage of data entry, with a designation that the term or course pertained to a transfer school. Course and term-specific information about transferred work was generally complete, but information about the school from which work was transferred was often inadequate for coding purposes. As described above, all terms attended at the same school are associated with the same school ID.

**School data.** The one-page Transcript Cover Sheet provided information for assigning course grades to a uniform grade scale. These data were entered into a SurveyCraft data capture instrument, once for each school submitting valid transcripts. Ten percent of schools were re-entered, and a supervisor referred to the original hard-copy to adjudicate discrepancies.

**Course grades.** High school transcripts included a variety of systems for course grades, including letter grades or numbers. For ease of comparison, these were standardized into a uniform grading system. The standardized grading scale for the resulting CRS\_GRADE variable ranges from 01 to 20. Table 1 lists the corresponding letter grades for each of the CRS\_GRADE values.

Table 1. Grading system for coded transcript variables

CRS_GRADE	Corresponding letter grade	CRS_GRADE	Corresponding letter grade
01	A+	11	D
02	A	12	D-
03	A-	13	F
04	B+	14	Pass, satisfactory or credit
05	B	15	Unsatisfactory or no credit
06	B-	16	Withdrew or dropped course
07	C+	17	Incomplete
08	C	18	Non-graded course or audit
09	C-	19	Blank, no grade provided
10	D+	20	Unrecodable grade

In addition to the standardized grade variable, survey staff created a variable for each course called CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS. This variable provides information on how the CRS\_GRADE variable was created from the information provided by the school. The values of the recoding status variable are listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Values for CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS

CRS_GRADE_RECODE_STATUS	Recoding Status
0	Directly recoded
1	Recoded using grade specifications of own school
2	Recoded using standard grade specifications
3	Uncodable grade

Each standardized grade was assigned using one of the following four methods:

1. **The transcript reported letter grades using the system in Table 1 above.** All letter grades were directly assigned to the corresponding standardized grade in Table 1. Letters that could not be classified into one of the categories 1-19 were considered to be unrecodable and included in category 20. In the cases where the CRS\_GRADE variable was recoded directly from the grade on the transcript, CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was assigned a value of 0.
2. **The school used numeric grades and provided grading specifications on the one-page Transcript Cover Sheet.** For these respondents, numeric grades were converted to standardized grades using the grading specifications provided by the school. For example, if the numeric grade fell within the range for an 'A' as specified by that particular school, it was assigned to category 02. Fewer than 10% of schools provided multiple grading specifications; in all cases, the primary specifications were used. Due to the possibility of transcription errors, numeric grades below 15 were considered to be unrecodable when the minimum passing grade was higher than 15. For all cases where the CRS\_GRADE variable was recoded from the transcript using the school's own grading specifications, CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was assigned a value of 1.

3. The school used letter grades of a type different than those shown in Table 1. Grades of 'G' were classified as 05, 'O' and 'E' as 02, and 'O+' and 'E+' as 01. CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was assigned a value of 2. If the grades could not be recoded, then CRS\_GRADE was assigned a value of 20 and CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was assigned to 3.
4. The school used numeric grades and did not provide grading specifications. The means of the upper and lower limits of the grading systems across all schools were used to construct the standard grading system shown in Table 3. If the school did not specify its grading specifications, numeric grades (and numeric grades with a qualifier attached) were recoded based on this standard system. Once again, to take into account the possibility of transcription errors, numeric grades below 15 were considered to be unrecodable. CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was assigned a value of 2 when recoding was done using the standard grade specifications. If the grades could not be recoded, then CRS\_GRADE was given a value of 20 and CRS\_GRADE\_RECODE\_STATUS was coded as 3.

Table 3. Standard numeric grading system

Lower limit	Upper limit	CRS_GRADE
91	100	02
82	Less than 91	05
73	Less than 82	08
65	Less than 73	11
15	Less than 65	13

## NOTES ON TRANSCRIPT SURVEY VARIABLES

Transcript Survey variables can be found on the NLSY97 Event History CD by browsing through the “transcript survey” area of interest or by searching for question names with the prefix TRANS\_. This section provides supplemental notes not included in the codebook about individual transcript variables.

Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
CRS_CODE.xx R97128.-R97251.	<b>Course Code xx</b> Courses are numbered approximately as they appeared on the high school transcript. The course number has no content except to identify the course uniquely. Because terms are numbered approximately chronologically, course numbers and term numbers may not increase in tandem. Information on the Secondary School Taxonomy – Revised (SST-R) is available on the National Center for Education Statistics website, <a href="http://nces.ed.gov">http://nces.ed.gov</a> . <b>Note that researchers must use the crosswalk provided at the end of this appendix to compare the NLSY97 course codes to the SST-R.</b>
CRS_CREDIT.xx R97252.-R97375.	<b>Credits Earned for Course xx</b> Credits earned are listed in the units provided by the school and are not necessarily comparable across schools. Some schools may award 1 credit for a one-year course, while others award credits according to the number of hours per week that the course meets. Course credits within a term may not sum to the credits earned for the term due to additional credits from non-coursework activities (e.g., community service, yearbook, etc.), or because of credit accumulation rules that involve multiple courses. For example, all religion courses may be worth .5 credits, but a student may face a ceiling of 2 credits earned from religion courses across all high school terms.
CRS_GRADE_RECODE _STATUS.xx R97376.-R97499.	<b>Recoding Status of Grade for Course xx</b> See “Course Grades” discussion under Data Entry and Processing above.
CRS_GRADE.xx R97500.-R97623.	<b>Recoded Quality Grade xx</b> See “Course Grades” discussion under Data Entry and Processing above.
CRS_TERM_NU.xx R97624.-R97747.	<b>Course Term Number xx</b> Because terms are numbered approximately chronologically while courses are numbered approximately as they appeared on the transcript, course numbers and term numbers may not increase in tandem. The term number has no content except to identify the term uniquely.
TERM_CREDIT.xx R97748.-R97765.	<b>Credits Earned in Term xx</b> Credits earned are listed in the units provided by the school and are not necessarily comparable across schools. Some schools may award 1 credit for a one-year course, while others award credits according to the number of hours per week that the course meets. Course credits within a term may not sum to the credits earned for the term due to additional credits from non-coursework activities (e.g., community service, yearbook, etc.), or because of credit accumulation rules that involve multiple courses. For example, all religion courses may be worth .5 credits, but a student may face a ceiling of 2 credits earned from religion courses across all high school terms.

Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
TERM_START_DATE.xx R97856.-R97873.01	<b>Month, Year Term Started xx</b> Calendar month and year listed on transcript for start of term. If only one date was associated with a term, that date appears in TERM_END_DATE.xx. Term dates may overlap if a youth transferred from one school to another mid-session, or in rare cases, with simultaneous enrollment in a vocational school or community college.
TERM_END_DATE.xx R97766.-R97783.01	<b>Month, Year Term Ended xx</b> Calendar month and year listed on transcript for end of term. If only one date was associated with a term, that date appears as the end date. Term dates may overlap if a youth transferred from one school to another mid-session, or in rare cases, with simultaneous enrollment in a vocational school or community college.
TERM_GRADE.xx R97784.-R97801.	<b>Grade Level for Term xx</b> The grade level (e.g., 10, 11, etc.) in which the youth was enrolled during term xx.
TERM_SCH_NU.xx R97802.-R97819.	<b>School Number for Term xx</b> The ID of the school in which the youth was enrolled in term xx. Corresponds only to variables SCH_CAT.xx and not to other school IDs in the NLSY97 youth data. School number 01 indicates the school from which the transcript was received. A school number greater than 01 indicates transferred coursework.
TERM_SEASON.xx R97820.-R97837.	<b>Term Season xx</b> Calendar season or other term designation of term xx.
TERM_YEAR.xx R97838.-R97855.01	<b>Term Year xx</b> Calendar year of term xx designation. May not match TERM_END_DATE.xx or TERM_START_DATE.xx, as in Fall 2000 term ending in January 2001.
SCH_CAT.xx R97874.-R97885.	<b>Course Catalog Received xx</b> Marked 'yes' if a course catalog was available from the school during the course coding process. May indicate higher reliability of SST-R code assigned in CRS_CODE.xx. Can be linked to CRS_CODE.xx through term number of course (CRS_TERM_NU.xx) and school number of term (TERM_SCH_NU.xx).  School numbers link only to TERM_SCH_NU.xx variable and not to other school IDs in the NLSY97 youth data. School number 01 indicates the school from which the transcript was received, generally the most recent school of enrollment. A school number greater than 01 indicates transferred coursework.
SPECIAL_ED R97886.	<b>Participated in Special Ed</b> Marked yes if sampled school indicated on Student Request list that youth was enrolled in special education courses. Pertains to School 01.
BILING_ED R97887.	<b>Participated in Bilingual Ed</b> Marked yes if sampled school indicated on Student Request list that youth was enrolled in bilingual education courses. Pertains to School 01.
GIFTED_CRS R97888.	<b>Participated in Gifted Courses Program</b> Marked yes if sampled school indicated on Student Request list that youth was enrolled in a gifted courses program. Pertains to School 01.
TERM_TOTAL R97889.	<b>Total Number of Terms Reported</b> Total number of terms reported for youth across all schools. Equal to the maximum xx for which TERM_xx variables will have non-missing data.

Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
SCH_START_DATE R97890.-R97890.01	<b>Month, Year Term Started</b> Calendar month and year in which school shows student as first enrolled. Pertains to School 01.
SCH_END_DATE R97891.-R97891.01	<b>Month, Year Term Ended</b> Calendar month and year in which school shows student as last enrolled. Pertains to School 01.
AB_AYxxxx R97892.-R97899.	<b>Number of Absences in Academic Year xxxx</b> Total absences in each academic year if youth was enrolled during that school year. For example, variable AB_AY1992 refers to absences in academic year 1992–93. May have been reported annually or summed from term-level data. Pertains to School 01.
AB-MISS R97900.	<b>Number of Absences if Year Not Assigned</b> Total absences for youth if absences are not classified by attendance year. Pertains to School 01.
TARDY_AYxxxx R97901.-R97908.	<b>Number of Tardies in Academic Year xxxx</b> Total tardies in each academic year if youth was enrolled during that school year. For example, variable TARDY_AY1992 refers to tardies in academic year 1992–93. May have been reported annually or summed from term-level data. Pertains to School 01.
TARDY_MISS R97909.	<b>Number of Tardies if Year Not Assigned</b> Total tardies for youth if tardies are not classified by attendance year. Pertains to School 01.
FLAG_MISS_AB_AYxxxx R97910.-R97917.	<b>Enrolled, Missing Absences in Academic Yr xxxx</b> Flag indicating that youth was enrolled in an academic year but was missing absence information for that year. For example, FLAG_MISS_AB_AY1992 refers to academic year 1992–93. Pertains to School 01.
FLAG_MISS_TARDY_AYxxxx R97918.-R97925.	<b>Enrolled, Missing Tardies in Academic Yr xxxx</b> Flag indicating that youth was enrolled in an academic year but was missing tardy information for that year. For example, FLAG_MISS_TARDY_AY1992 refers to academic year 1992–93. Pertains to School 01.
AT_SCH R97926.	<b>Has R Left School</b> School's report of youth's enrollment status in spring 2000. Pertains to School 01.
LEFT_DATE RR97927.-R97927.01	<b>Month, Year Left School</b> Calendar month and year in which school assigned non-enrollment status to students who have left school. May differ from SCH_END_DATE because of incomplete requirements that delayed graduation beyond the final term in which student enrolled in courses. May also differ if school has a lag period in which students are not considered to have dropped out, or if a student who transfers out mid-session is recorded as enrolled until the end of that session. Pertains to School 01.
LEFT_REASON R97928.	<b>Reason Left School</b> School's report of student's departure status for students who have left school. Pertains to School 01.

Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
GPA R97929.	<b>GPA for Last Year</b> Grade-point average as calculated by the school in its metric for last year of youth's enrollment. May not match GPA calculated using CRS_GRADE.xx values due to conversion of grades to uniform scale, weighting procedures at school, or other school-specific GPA calculations (e.g., physical education courses do not contribute to academic GPA). Pertains to School 01.
CLASS_RANK R97930.	<b>Class Rank for Last Year</b> Youth's rank in class for last year of enrollment. Pertains to School 01.
CLASS_SIZE R97931.	<b>Class Size Category for Last Year</b> Categorical variable denoting size of youth's class (grade level) during last year of enrollment. Pertains to School 01.
PSAT_MATH R97932.	<b>PSAT Math Score</b> Standardized PSAT math score for youth's last administration of PSAT.
PSAT_VERB R97933.	<b>PSAT Verbal Score</b> Standardized PSAT verbal score for youth's last administration of PSAT.
ACT_COMP R97934.	<b>Composite ACT Score</b> Standardized ACT composite score for youth's last administration of ACT. Entered directly from transcript, may not correspond to sum of component scores.
ACT_ENG R97935.	<b>ACT English Score</b> Standardized ACT English score for youth's last administration of ACT. Entered directly from transcript, may not sum with other components to composite score.
ACT_MATH R97936.	<b>ACT Math Score</b> Standardized ACT Math score for youth's last administration of ACT. Entered directly from transcript, may not sum with other components to composite score.
ACT_READ R97937.	<b>ACT Reading Score</b> Standardized ACT Reading score for youth's last administration of ACT. Entered directly from transcript, may not sum with other components to composite score.
SAT_VERBAL R97938.	<b>SAT Verbal Score</b> Standardized SAT Verbal score for youth's last administration of SAT.
SAT_MATH R97939.	<b>SAT Math Score</b> Standardized SAT Math score for youth's last administration of SAT.
SAT_DATE R97940.-R97940.01	<b>Month, Year SAT Was Taken</b> Month and year of youth's last administration of SAT.
AP_BIO R97941.	<b>AP Biology Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement biology exam.
AP_CALC R97942.	<b>AP Calculus Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement calculus exam.
AP_CHEM R97943.	<b>AP Chemistry Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement chemistry exam.
AP_ENG R97944.	<b>AP English Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement English exam.



Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
AP_HIST_EU R97945.	<b>AP European History Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement European history exam.
AP_GOV R97946.	<b>AP Government Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement government exam.
AP_PHYS R97947.	<b>AP Physics Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement physics exam.
AP_PSYCH R97948.	<b>AP Psychology Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement psychology exam.
AP_SPAN R97949.	<b>AP Spanish Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement Spanish exam.
AP_HIST_US R97950.	<b>AP U.S. History Score</b> Highest test score for an Advanced Placement U.S. history exam.
OTH_AP1 R97959.	<b>Number Other AP 1</b> Total number of other Advanced Placement exams on which youth received a score of 1. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_AP2 R97960.	<b>Number Other AP 2</b> Total number of other Advanced Placement exams on which youth received a score of 2. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_AP3 R97961.	<b>Number Other AP 3</b> Total number of other Advanced Placement exams on which youth received a score of 3. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_AP4 R97962.	<b>Number Other AP 4</b> Total number of other Advanced Placement exams on which youth received a score of 4. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_AP5 R97963.	<b>Number Other AP 5</b> Total number of other Advanced Placement exams on which youth received a score of 5. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
SATII_BIO R97951.	<b>SAT II Biology Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II Biology exam.
SATII_MATH1 R97952.	<b>SAT II Math I Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II Math I exam.
SATII_MATH2 R97953.	<b>SAT II Math II Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II Math II exam.
SATII_CHEM R97954.	<b>SAT II Chemistry Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II Chemistry exam.
SATII_ENG_LIT R97955.	<b>SAT II English Literature Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II English Literature exam.
SATII_ENG_WRITE R97956.	<b>SAT II English Writing Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II English Writing exam.

Table 4. Additional information about Transcript Survey variables

Question name (all begin with TRANS_) and reference number(s)	Variable title and notes
SATII_HIST_AM R97957.	<b>SAT II American History and Social Studies Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II American History and Social Studies exam.
SATII_HIST_WORLD R97958.	<b>SAT II World History Score</b> Highest standardized score for an SAT II World History exam.
OTH_SAT1 R97964.	<b>Number Other SAT 200400</b> Total number of other SAT II exams on which youth received a score of 200-400. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_SAT2 R97965.	<b>Number Other SAT 401500</b> Total number of other SAT II exams on which youth received a score of 401-500. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_SAT3 R97966.	<b>Number Other SAT 501600</b> Total number of other SAT II exams on which youth received a score of 501-600. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_SAT4 R97967.	<b>Number Other SAT 601700</b> Total number of other SAT II exams on which youth received a score of 601-700. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.
OTH_SAT5 R97968.	<b>Number Other SAT 701800</b> Total number of other SAT II exams on which youth received a score of 701-800. May include additional exams in subjects listed above.

## CODING INFORMATION FOR COURSE CODE VARIABLES

As part of the NLSY97 Transcript Survey, project staff coded respondents' courses using the revised Secondary School Taxonomy of courses (SST-R). The SST-R codes use a combination of numbers and letters to create a unique identifier for each type and level of high school course content. Because the NLSY97 data base system requires that all data be in numeric form, it was necessary to convert the SST-R codes into numbers for use with the Transcript Survey data. The following table indicates the NLSY97 number assigned for each original SST-R code and course description. These codes were used in variables R97128.–R97251. (TRANS\_CRS\_CODE.01–.124) in the NLSY97 data set.

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
1	1_11A	General Mathematics, ESE/Functional
2	1_11B	General Mathematics, Basic
3	1_11C	General Mathematics, Regular
4	1_11D	General Mathematics, Other
5	1_12A	Consumer Mathematics, ESE/Functional
6	1_12B	Consumer Mathematics, Regular
7	1_13	Pre-Algebra
8	1_14	Algebra 1
9	1_15	Geometry
10	1_16	Algebra 2 through Pre-Calculus TRIG AND ADV MATH
11	1_17A	Advanced Mathematics, Calculus
12	1_17B	AP CALC Advanced Mathematics, AP/IB
13	1_17C	Advanced Mathematics, Other
14	1_18	Unified Mathematics
15	1_19A	Occupationally-Related Mathematics, ESE/Functional
16	1_19B	TECH MATH; Occupationally-Related Mathematics, Regular
17	1_21A	Survey Science, Basic
18	1_21B	Survey Science, Specialized Topics
19	1_21C	Survey Science, Integrated/Unified Topics
20	1_22A	Biological Science, Basic
21	1_22B	Biological Science, Regular
22	1_22C	BIO II; Biological Science, Advanced and Honors
23	1_22D	Biological Science, Specialized Topics
24	1_22E	Biological Science, AP/IB
25	1_23A	Chemistry, Basic
26	1_23B	Chemistry, Regular
27	1_23C	Chemistry, Advanced and Honors
28	1_23D	Chemistry, Specialized Topics
29	1_23E	Chemistry, AP/IB
30	1_24A	Physics, Basic
31	1_24B	Physics, Regular

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
32	1_24C	Physics, Advanced and Honors
33	1_24D	Physics, Specialized Topics
34	1_24E	Physics, AP/IB
35	1_25A	Earth Science, Basic
36	1_25B	Earth Science, Regular
37	1_25C	Earth Science, Advanced and Honors
38	1_25D	Earth Science, Specialized Topics
39	1_26A	Physical Science, Basic
40	1_26B	Physical Science, Regular
41	1_26C	Physical Science, Advanced and Honors
42	1_26D	Physical Science, Specialized Topics
43	1_27	Engineering
44	1_31A	English Survey, Language Skills
45	1_31B	English Survey, Grades 7 and 8
46	1_31C1	English Survey, ESE/Functional, Grade 9
47	1_31C2	English Survey, ESE/Functional, Grade 10
48	1_31C3	English Survey, ESE/Functional, Grade 11
49	1_31C4	English Survey, ESE/Functional, Grade 12
50	1_31D1	English Survey, Basic, Grade 9
51	1_31D2	English Survey, Basic, Grade 10
52	1_31D3	English Survey, Basic, Grade 11
53	1_31D4	English Survey, Basic, Grade 12
54	1_31E1	English Survey, Regular, Grade 9
55	1_31E2	English Survey, Regular, Grade 10
56	1_31E3	English Survey, Regular, Grade 11
57	1_31E4	English Survey, Regular, Grade 12
58	1_31F1	English Survey, Advanced and Honors, Grade 9
59	1_31F2	English Survey, Advanced and Honors, Grade 10
60	1_31F3	English Survey, Advanced and Honors, Grade 11
61	1_31F4	English Survey, Advanced and Honors, Grade 12
62	1_31G	AP ENG; English Survey, AP/IB
63	1_32	Literature
64	1_33	Composition and Writing
65	1_34	Speech
66	1_35	English as a Second Language
67	1_41A	American History, Basic
68	1_41B	American History, Regular
69	1_41C	American History, Advanced and Honors
70	1_41D	American History, Specialized Topics
71	1_41E	American History, AP/IB
72	1_42A	World History, Basic
73	1_42B	World History, Regular

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
74	1_42C	World History, Advanced and Honors
75	1_42D	World History, Specialized Topics
76	1_42E	World History, AP/IB
77	1_43A	Government & Politics, Basic
78	1_43B	Government & Politics, Regular
79	1_43C	Government & Politics, Advanced and Honors
80	1_43D	Government & Politics, Specialized Topics
81	1_43E	Government & Politics, AP/IB
82	1_44A	Economics, Basic
83	1_44B	Economics, Regular
84	1_44C	Economics, Advanced and Honors
85	1_44D	Economics, Specialized Topics
86	1_44E	Economics, AP/IB
87	1_45A	Behavioral Sciences, Basic
88	1_45B	Behavioral Sciences, Regular
89	1_45C	Behavioral Sciences, Advanced and Honors
90	1_45D	Behavioral Sciences, Specialized Topics
91	1_45E	Behavioral Sciences, AP/IB
92	1_46A	Geography, Basic
93	1_46B	Geography, Regular
94	1_46C	Geography, Advanced and Honors
95	1_46D	Geography, Specialized Topics
96	1_46E	Geography, AP/IB
97	1_47A	Social Science, Humanities, and Other, Basic
98	1_47B	Social Science, Humanities, and Other, Regular
99	1_47C	Social Science, Humanities, and Other, Advanced and Honors
100	1_47D	Social Science, Humanities, and Other, Specialized Topics
101	1_47E	Social Science, Humanities, and Other, AP/IB
102	1_51A	Visual Arts, Basic
103	1_51B	Visual Arts, Regular and Advanced
104	1_51C	Visual Arts, AP/IB
105	1_52A	Music, Basic
106	1_52B	Music, Regular and Advanced
107	1_52C	Music, AP/IB
108	1_53	Dance
109	1_54	Theater Arts
110	1_61A	Spanish, Year 1
111	1_61B	Spanish, Year 2
112	1_61C	Spanish, Year 3
113	1_61D	Spanish, Year 4+
114	1_61E	Spanish, AP/IB
115	1_62A	French, Year 1

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
116	1_62B	French, Year 2
117	1_62C	French, Year 3
118	1_62D	French, Year 4+
119	1_62E	French, AP/IB
120	1_63A	German, Year 1
121	1_63B	German, Year 2
122	1_63C	German, Year 3
123	1_63D	German, Year 4+
124	1_63E	German, AP/IB
125	1_64A	Latin, Year 1
126	1_64B	Latin, Year 2
127	1_64C	Latin, Year 3
128	1_64D	Latin, Year 4+
129	1_64E	Latin, AP/IB
130	1_65A	Italian, Year 1
131	1_65B	Italian, Year 2
132	1_65C	Italian, Year 3
133	1_65D	Italian, Year 4+
134	1_65E	Italian, AP/IB
135	1_66A	Other, Year 1
136	1_66B	Other, Year 2
137	1_66C	Other, Year 3
138	1_66D	Other, Year 4+
139	1_66E	Other, AP/IB
140	1_67	Non-English Languages, General/Survey
141	2_AA	Family and Consumer Sciences Education, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
142	2_AB	Family and Consumer Sciences Education, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
143	2_AC	Family and Consumer Sciences Education, Specialty courses
144	2_B1	GLMP, Basic Keyboarding/Typewriting
145	2_B2	GLMP, Industrial Arts
146	2_B3	GLMP, Career Preparation/General Work Experience
147	2_B4	GLMP, Technology Education
148	2_B5	GLMP, Other
149	2_C01A	Agriculture and Renewable Resources, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
150	2_C01B	Agriculture and Renewable Resources, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
151	2_C01C	Agriculture and Renewable Resources, Specialty courses
152	2_C01D	Agriculture and Renewable Resources, Co-op/Work Experience
153	2_C021A	Business Management, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
154	2_C021B	Business Management, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
155	2_C021C	Business Management, Specialty courses
156	2_C021D	Business Management, Co-op/Work Experience
157	2_C022A	Business Services, 1 <sup>st</sup> course

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
158	2_C022B	Business Services, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
159	2_C022C	Business Services, Specialty courses
160	2_C022D	Business Services, Co-op/Work Experience
161	2_C03A	Marketing and Distribution, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
162	2_C03B	Marketing and Distribution, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
163	2_C03C	Marketing and Distribution, Specialty courses
164	2_C03D	Marketing and Distribution, Co-op/Work Experience
165	2_C04A	Health Care, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
166	2_C04B	Health Care, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
167	2_C04C	Health Care, Specialty courses
168	2_C04D	Health Care, Co-op/Work Experience
169	2_C05A	Public and Protective Services, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
170	2_C05B	Public and Protective Services, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
171	2_C05C	Public and Protective Services, Specialty courses
172	2_C05D	Public and Protective Services, Co-op/Work Experience
173	2_C061A	T&I, Construction Trades, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
174	2_C061B	T&I, Construction Trades, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
175	2_C061C	T&I, Construction Trades, Specialty courses
176	2_C061D	T&I, Construction Trades, Co-op/Work Experience
177	2_C062A	T&I, Mechanics and Repair, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
178	2_C062B	T&I, Mechanics and Repair, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
179	2_C062C	T&I, Mechanics and Repair, Specialty courses
180	2_C062D	T&I, Mechanics and Repair, Co-op/Work Experience
181	2_C0631A	T&I, Precision Production (Drafting/Graphics/Printing), 1 <sup>st</sup> course
182	2_C0631B	T&I, Precision Production (Drafting/Graphics/Printing), 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
183	2_C0631C	T&I, Precision Production (Drafting/Graphics/Printing), Specialty courses
184	2_C0632A	T&I, Precision Production (Metals/Wood/Plastics), 1 <sup>st</sup> course
185	2_C0632B	T&I, Precision Production (Metals/Wood/Plastics), 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
186	2_C0632C	T&I, Precision Production (Metals/Wood/Plastics), Specialty courses
187	2_C0633A	T&I, Precision Production (Other), 1 <sup>st</sup> course
188	2_C0633B	T&I, Precision Production (Other), 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
189	2_C0633C	T&I, Precision Production (Other), Specialty courses
190	2_C0634	T&I, Precision Production, Co-op/Work Experience
191	2_C064A	T&I, Transportation and Material Moving, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
192	2_C064B	T&I, Transportation and Material Moving, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
193	2_C064C	T&I, Transportation and Material Moving, Specialty courses
194	2_C064D	T&I, Transportation and Material Moving, Co-op/Work Experience
195	2_C071A	Computer Technology, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
196	2_C071BA	Computer Technology, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses, non-AP/IB
197	2_C071BB	Computer Technology, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses, AP/IB
198	2_C071C	Computer Technology, Specialty courses
199	2_C071D	Computer Technology, Co-op/Work Experience

Table 5. Crosswalk between NLSY97 codes and SST-R codes

NLSY97 code	SST-R code	Course description
200	2_C072A	Communication Technology, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
201	2_C072B	Communication Technology, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
202	2_C072C	Communication Technology, Specialty courses
203	2_C072D	Communication Technology, Co-op/Work Experience
204	2_C073A	Other Technologies, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
205	2_C073B	Other Technologies, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
206	2_C073C	Other Technologies, Specialty courses
207	2_C073D	Other Technologies, Co-op/Work Experience
208	2_C08A	Personal and Other Services, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
209	2_C08B	Personal and Other Services, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
210	2_C08C	Personal and Other Services, Specialty courses
211	2_C08D	Personal and Other Services, Co-op/Work Experience
212	2_C09A	Food Service and Hospitality, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
213	2_C09B	Food Service and Hospitality, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
214	2_C09C	Food Service and Hospitality, Specialty courses
215	2_C09D	Food Service and Hospitality, Co-op/Work Experience
216	2_C10A	Child Care and Education, 1 <sup>st</sup> course
217	2_C10B	Child Care and Education, 2 <sup>nd</sup> (or later) courses
218	2_C10C	Child Care and Education, Specialty courses
219	2_C10D	Child Care and Education, Co-op/Work Experience
220	2_C11	Specific Labor Market Preparation, Unidentified Subject
221	3_1A	Enrichment
222	3_1B	Assistance
223	3_1C	Service
224	3_2	Health, Physical & Recreational Education Credits
225	3_3	Religion and Theology Credits
226	3_4	Military Science Credits
227	4	Special Education Curriculum
228	5_5	Uncodeable